

Addendum to the minutes of the January 23, 1984 meeting of the Town Assembly of Arden:

The Registration Committee reported that the budget for the fiscal year 84/85 as submitted to referendum was passed by a majority of the registered voters. Assessors elected were: William Press, convener, Bernard Brachman, John Grimaldi, Eugene Shaw, Alton Dahl, Harold Monfort, and Carl Falco. Alternate, William Theis.

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on March 26, 1984, Chairman William Press presiding.

In attendance were:

Beatrice Jaffe	Jim Larsen	Helen Vinson
Pat Liberman	Stephanie Enie	Aaron Hamburger
Cy Liberman	Ron Enie	Linda Scott
Jean Brachman	Helen Macklem	Kenneth Scott
Bernard Brachman	Sarah R. Moore	Edward Rohrbach
Bill Press	Eugene Shaw	Mary Brent Whipple
Virginia Shaw	John Grimaldi	Carl Falco
Elizabeth Varley Walker	Mary Trench	Paul Thompson
Alton Dahl	Marie Dugan (NV)	Connee Wright McKinney
David Warner	Carolyn Melody	Rick Scott
Susan Warner	Woodrow Vandever	Robert Jones
June Kleban	A. Sykulski	William Bindloss
Sarah Hamburger	Nancy Badner	Mitchell Hoopes
Mary E. Irons	Patricia Press	Ruth Panella
Robert Raynolds	John Hewlett	Samuel Panella
Stuart Raynolds	Lee Starr	Ned Worth (NV)
Gail Rinehart	Kathryn Petersen	Frank Akutowicz
Rowena Austin	Mary Andrews	Don Berman
Cecelia Vore	Ruth Estes	Michele Sullivan
Leon Tanzer	Ruth Holcomb	Larry Walker
Barbara Fenske	Don Holcomb	Bill Bailey
Rae Gerstine	Albert W. Marks, IV	Jim Schwaber
Susan Rohrbach	John L. Austin	Fred Smith

Minutes of the January meeting were approved as read.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Richard Collins, County Executive, inviting attendance at his 1985 budget presentation on March 27 in Council Chambers in the City/County Building.

The regular order of business was suspended so the election of standing committee members could take place. Nominations from the floor: Susan Rohrbach for the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee, Stuart Raynolds for Safety Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees - Cy Liberman

At the last Town Assembly the Trustees were asked to circulate a letter calling attention to the state and local laws on control of dogs and stating that a dogcatcher may be hired. The letter was duly circulated. The circular letter was written by the Trustees and was printed and distributed by Harold and Ethel Monfort. We thank them for their generous cooperation in this project.

In addition, the SPCA, which has the duty of serving as dogcatcher, was contacted and did recently start to make sweeps through the village, after one of its employees was shown the boundaries of Arden. Residents have reported that fewer dogs are running loose now that these steps have been taken. The dogcatcher will be back for additional sweeps around the village.

The town's fiscal year ended yesterday. The financial report you received tonight is for 11 months of the fiscal year - for the period ending February 29. If any committee has expenses, please get the vouchers to Rae within the next few days so that these items can be included in the year's accounts.

The collection of land rent for the new fiscal year is proceeding very well. We do have a few cases where leaseholders have failed to pay the rent for the last fiscal year. It will be necessary to take legal action against those few unless they pay up in a very short time.

Advisory - Alton Dahl. No Report

Assessors - Bill Press. No Report

Audit - Alton Dahl. No Report

Budget - Leon Tanzer. No Report

Buzz Ware Village Center - Susan Warner, Secretary

The committee met with the Playground Committee and members of ACRA to discuss Wilmington Montessori's request to use the building for a summer camp program. There will be a motion about this under old business.

Al Bratten, the custodian, will be unable to work because of his impending hospitalization, the BWVC Committee will be looking for his temporary replacement for 6 weeks.

The BWVC Committee has not met regularly due to the absence of its chairman. No further business has been carried out. The next meeting is scheduled for April 9.

Civic - Gail Rinehart

The Town-wide spring clean-up of large items not taken in the regular trash pick-up is scheduled for May 5.

Roads are currently being cleaned up. This has been slow due to a late start and poor weather and some areas have not been completed.

The committee's annual road/woodlands tour is scheduled for Saturday, April 21. Please notify someone on the committee if there is something you particularly want us to see.

Hopefully we are finished with snow removal for the year. We feel the contractor did an excellent job overall. There are some minor problems with the sanding; too much in some places, not enough at other spots. Town Assembly responded with a vote of appreciation to Jim Burslem for a splendid job of snow removal.

The garbage contract will come up under new business. We do expect to have some ups and downs but recently, during the past 5 months, things have been more disrupted than usual. The committee has solicited bids from 4 companies and will present the options at the appropriate time.

We are asking the advice of the Town Assembly about the intended use of the BWVC parking lot. We have a problem with some residents using the area on a permanent basis. The sign merely bans overnight parking, do we need to change the wording? Do we intend this area to provide temporary parking for those using the building or should we allow private residential parking?

Discussion:

Clearly this lot is intended for temporary parking, not necessarily for BWVC users only. There was a strong Assembly vote of support for the Civic Committee opinion that the lot should not be used for private residential parking.

We note that the working of Ordinance #13, requiring that each leaseholder establish parking space for all cars in regular use, has a possible loophole. The ordinance does not require that leaseholders park in their parking spaces, therefore it may still be legal for them to park on the road.

The use of the illegal access to Meadow Lane from the lot at the top of the hill continues to be a problem. We will be placing boulders across the opening and sending an accompanying letter explaining the need for this course of action. Bill Press has agreed to sign the letter as the official representative of the town.

Community Planning - Cecelia Vore

Regarding the committee's opposition to the widening of Naaman's Rd: We received a form reply from the Dept. of Transportation dated Jan. 23, 1984, thanking us for our letter and stating that our comments would be addressed in the project's Location/Design Study Report.

Concerning the landscaping plan for the pond in the Memorial Garden: On Sunday, March 25, Frank Akutowicz, Ed Rohrbach, and myself met at the Memorial Garden to refine the details of the plan. The Community Planning Committee plans to meet with the Civic Committee in May to discuss the plan, and I hope to have more to report at the June Town Meeting.

The Community Planning Committee met on Feb. 23 to discuss the revision of the Arden Book. Using the current book as a foundation, we are expanding the book to include anecdotes, photos, and--in general--many different voices. We want the book to reflect the participatory nature of our community. We have already begun asking residents for specific contributions to the book, and we will be contacting many more Ardenites as the project progresses. A Community Planning meeting is scheduled for April 19, Thursday, at which the Arden Book will be the major topic. At the June Town Meeting, there will be a general call for additions and corrections for the book, and I hope to put together some kind of display showing how the project is developin.

The Annual Woods Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 28. This year we are trying to encourage more people to participate by suggesting the following plan:

- 1) Residents whose leaseholds adjoin the woodlands are asked to care for the area from the leasehold to the creek. If there is a particular trouble spot in an area, we ask that residents take personal responsibility for cleaning it up, asking help from their neighbors if needed.
- 2) Residents whose leaseholds do not adjoin the woods are asked to clean the creekbed, the paths, and common areas like Indian Circle.
- 3) The Civic Committee has scheduled a special trash collection for the following Saturday, May 5. We ask that all residents cooperate with the woods clean-up by allowing trash from the

woods to be kept at their leaseholds until the special collection.

- 4) We also need volunteers to distribute flyers before the clean-up.

Lastly, a reminder that Ordinance #13 will go into effect in June, 1985: This ordinance requires that every leaseholder provide off-street parking for every vehicle regularly used by persons living on the leasehold. Absentee landlords are being informed.

Playground - Rowena Austin

The Playground Committee conducted a thorough inspection of all equipment on March 3, and found everything to be in safe wrpking condition.

On Saturday, March 24, our committee met with members of the BWVC Committee and Marie Dugan to discuss a reimbursement arrangement re the proposal now before the town to allow WMA a two week program during the last 2 weeks of August.

It was proposed that WMA be responsible for the scraping and painting of all equipment on Sherwood Green which required this treatment. This proposal was accepted by vote of the Playground Committee and the BWVC Committee. Work on the equipment is to be carried out during the Spring vacation, weather permitting. At the latest date, this work will be completed prior to the end of the school year and will in no way interfere with the ACRA program.

Registration - Virginia Shaw

There are 392 eligible voters as of this Town Assembly.

We have held an open house for the lower Sherwood neighborhood. We arranged for this evening's pre-election discussion of the various committees' functions.

The Records Officer and Town Secretary have completed checking the town records in the Secretary's office. Ephemeral and duplicate material has been weeded, in strict conformity with State public records procedures. We will soon begin on the files in the Village Center and the Records Officer will continue in cooperation with the Treasurer and the Committee chairmen. The first deposit of permanent but infrequently used items has been made in the State Records Center. We have also contracted for the photocopying of the just-filled Town Assembly minute book, the Registration Committee minute book, the minutes of the Assessors, and the Civic Committee minutes. The rate is \$100 for approximately one foot of records, removed from their bindings. Our budget allowed for this expenditure and it must be contracted for during the fiscal year. The originals of these files are kept permanently; photocopying is insurance against loss of the information they contain in case of accident or vandalism. Our next year's budget will allow us to continue with this program. We should also be thinking about acquiring a second file cabinet for semi-current material fairly soon.

Safety - David Warner reported that he and Warren Davis are the only current members of this committee. They have not met.

Town Watch - Pat Liberman

We now have a base station, radio equipment, and a card file of volunteers. Tours of duty are scheduled through the end of April. We schedule 3 tours a week, 2 persons for each tour of 1½ hours. People are generally agreeable to being tapped. A new scheduler is now needed. Ruth Holcomb volunteered to schedule for May, June, and July, and Mary Trench volunteered to schedule for the following three months. Michelle Sullivan expressed interest in learning the scheduling process so she can volunteer a stint.

BWVC motion raised from the table: Moved that the Town Assembly grant the request of Wilmington Montessori Association for two weeks of summer camp.

Susan Warner ammended the motion as follows:

We move that WMA be granted use of the BWVC for use as a summer camp during the last two weeks in August. Regular building maintenance is paid for by their year long maintenance contract. Additional custodial fees are paid directly to the custodian for his additional work on behalf of the school.

WMA is offering additional compensation for the use, wear and tear on the grounds and equipment. WMA will strip and paint the following pieces of playground equipment: 2 swing sets, 2 jungle gyms, monkey bars, slide, picnic table. Work will be completed on April 16-24 and/or June 13-23 so as not to interfere with the scheduled ACRA program dates. The work will be done under the supervision of the Playground Committee. Any rescheduling due to inclement weather will be cleared with the ACRA schedule, Playground Committee and the BWVC.

Discussion:

- 1) Will the camp schedule fit in with the ACRA program and the Arden Fair? WMA has been and will continue to be in contact with ACRA (their schedule is not yet set) and with Bob Pollock, Fair chairman, to insure against schedule conflict.
- 2) The current ACRA board is enthusiastic about planning programs for the 160 children in the community plus adults. They would like to extend their program through August. ACRA should have first priority for use of this space.
ACRA has no definite plans for August. We should not jeopardize our relationship with WMA on this vague possibility. ACRA can still plan for August as both programs could occur concurrently. WMA will use only 3 or 4 of the 7 or 8 rooms available. ACRA will have access to the building during the camp session. This should not be viewed as a vote for or against ACRA.
- 3) Will the summer camp limit the playground use for Arden children? Last year WMA agreed to limited playground use to allow space for Arden children.
- 4) Is the proposed compensation adequate? What is WMA's summer camp profit? The Playground Committee was planning to restore the equipment anyway.

WMA is a non-profit organization and only plans to cover the cost of the camp. One reason for holding the camp is to encourage parents to come into the building to fulfill their cooperative work commitment by painting, unpacking, and setting-up the classrooms for the coming school year.

Vote taken by paper ballot: 34 aye, 23 nay. Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

Civic Committee Garbage Collection Proposal - Gail Rinehart

The Committee recommends changing our trash collection contract from Laxton to Sonaire. We recommend a once-a-week at the curb pick-up service. Sonaire would be contracted from December to December so that bids would be received in October in time for inclusion in the November budget referendum. Cost for this service would be \$24,248 per year.

Background: Our contract relations with Laxton during the past five years have been generally good. However, since late December, 1983, we have been having unusual communication problems. The front office has been unwilling to discuss problems such as their unwillingness to pick up garden debris. Therefore, bids were solicited from Twardus, Arrow, Harvey and Harvey, and Sonaire Companies. Only Sonaire expressed interest in the contract, their representative met with Gail Rinehart four times to go through the town and discuss details. They can only offer curbside service (no one but Laxton is willing to provide total behind-the-house pick-up) with special behind the house service for those people judged by the committee to be unable to carry trash cans to the curb.

Our Laxton contract, twice-a-week behind-the-house pick-up, costs \$27,500 per year including three bags of garden debris per pick-up. The Sonaire contract would include six bags of garden debris per week. Sonaire is also willing to do a spring clean-up for \$130 per day, they judge it would be a two day job.

Options:

- 1) Once a week curbside service, no containers \$24,248 per yr.
- 2) Once a week curbside service, container included \$26,936 per yr.
- 3) Twice a week curbside service, no containers \$26,400 per yr.
- 4) Twice a week curbside service, containers included \$29,088 per yr.

This proposal presents two main issues: Are we willing to haul trashcans to the curb? Will having trash at the curb present an aesthetic problem for the town? We recommend once-a-week service because it would minimize both these problems.

Discussion:

- Who would decide who gets behind the house service? People needing this would have to contact the Civic Committee who would make that decision.
- How large are the Sonaire containers? About twice the capacity of a normal trash can.
- Would Laxton's communications improve if they were informed about the possibility of losing the contract? Laxton knows about this, our current contract has expired and they are now operating without a contract.

Residents were opposed to carrying cans to the curb and remembering garbage collection day. They are willing to put up with some service difficulties for the convenience of behind-the-house pick-up. Containers at the curb are bound to cause littering throughout the town. Several people had bad reports on Sonaire's service although Ardentown is very happy with them.

Sense of the meeting:

The Civic Committee should continue to negotiate with Laxtin, If the situation becomes impossible, come back to Town Assembly or call a special meeting. The Laxton contract will continue to run from March to March.

ELECTION RESULTS

Audit: Alton Dahl, Mary Irons, William Bindloss
 Budget: John Hewlett, Lee Starr
 Buzz Ware Village Center: Elizabeth Varley Walker, Susan Rohrbach
 Civic: Eugene Shaw, Paul Thompson, Donald Holcomb
 Community Planning: Bernard Brachman, Edward Rohrbach
 Playground: Rowena Austin, Larry Walker, Edward Rohrbach
 Registration: Virginia Shaw, Beatrice Jaffe, Jean Brachman,
 Connee McKinney
 Safety: Thomas Colgan, Fred Smith, Warren Davis, Stuart Raynolds
 Town Assembly Chairman: William Press
 Advisory Chairman: Alton Dahl
 Town Assembly Secretary: Sarah Hamburger
 Town Assembly Treasurer: Rae Gerstine

GOOD AND WELFARE

The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of condolence to Mary Kumme for the death of her daughter.

Safety problems were reported in the Arden woods. There were people with rifles having target practice at Indian Circle. There has also been shooting in the Sherwood woods. Please report such incidents to the police.

Al Bratten is scheduled for an operation on March 29 and will be recuperating for about 6 weeks. Can we help him in any way?

Sarah Hamburger